

threatened by an ever-growing number of sources of invasion and compromise, and indeed, disabling of the systems themselves.

I thank my colleagues for indulging me to speak to this important piece of legislation which will be filed tonight in the House and, of course, automatically in the Senate.

I shall now inquire of our staff as to the desire of other Members to speak, as well as the wrap up for the evening.

(Mr. KYL assumed the Chair.)

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I note the Senator from Kansas would like to be recognized, but I ask if I could just make a few comments about the remarks that Senator WARNER has just made.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I have been honored to join the Armed Services Committee this year. Senator WARNER just took over as its new chairman. Some said we did not do anything the first part of the year, but even before the impeachment hearings came, Senator WARNER knew that we had a crisis in our defense circumstances.

He has served as Secretary of the Navy. He loves this country, and he loves our men and women in uniform. He decided early that we had to send a signal to reverse this 13-year trend of cutting our defense budgets, and he did that with great leadership.

We have now a very healthy pay raise this year for our men and women, a guaranteed pay raise in excess of the inflation rate for the next 5 years for our men and women in the services.

We want to send them a message that we are concerned about the rapid deployments that they are undergoing and the amount of time they spend away from their families. And we want to continue to monitor that.

I want to say how much I have enjoyed serving with the Senator. Members of both parties respect him and enjoy working with him.

Mr. WARNER. If the Senator would yield?

Mr. SESSIONS. Yes.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator very much for his kind comments. But the Senator has brought to mind the fact that our majority leader, Senator LOTT, made a decision to support our committee in putting through S. 4, I think the earliest bill in the Senate, which brought about the pay raises and retirement adjustments, which, hopefully, will increase our readiness by encouraging more young men and women to join the Armed Forces—our recruiting having fallen off—and retaining the skilled personnel that we now have.

Also, it was the Joint Chiefs of Staff that on two occasions came before our committee—in September of last year and again in January of this year—and unequivocally stated, in their best pro-

fessional judgment, the need for additional dollars, and how best those funds could be expended by the Congress, and putting particular emphasis on the pay and allowances, which is always the top priority of the Chiefs for their men and women of the Armed Forces.

I thank my colleague.

Mr. SESSIONS. I want to say how much I respect our chairman. I believe this bill, this appropriations report, represents a commitment by our Nation to reverse the trend of decline. The chairman has supported the President when he is right. He has been prepared to oppose him when he is wrong. As to those who disagree with our firm commitment, that I know the Senator in the chair supports, to reform our nuclear labs and to bring an end to this absolute disaster of security that we have had, I am disappointed that they have not yet gotten the message that serious fundamental reform is needed. They say those words, but when we come down with a good bill that does it, they draw back and again have excuses. I hope we can work this out and the bill will pass.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I have just been informed, much to my great pleasure, that two members of the minority, two Democrats on the Armed Services Committee, have now decided to sign our conference report, and there is a likelihood of one or more additional ones. I depart the floor far more heartened than when I entered about 40 minutes ago.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the chairman. I also appreciate his leadership and those who are signing this report. I think it is a good one.

Mr. BROWNBACK addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

CHEMICAL WARFARE IN SUDAN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I stated my support for my distinguished colleague from Virginia who chairs the Armed Services Committee. He did a wonderful job with that. This is such an important topic, even though we tend to think of the world as a stable place where we don't have to worry about it. I am glad he is worried about it and is so focused on it.

That is what I would like to draw the body's attention to right now, a situation that was reported this week in the reporting organizations of Reuters, the Associated Press, and the New York Times. This is a very troubling situation. It is in a part of the world that has experienced a great deal of trouble, but nonetheless, I want to point it out to this body.

On July 23, 22 bombs were reported dropped on two villages in Sudan—Lainya and Kaaya—resulting in inter-

nal hemorrhaging, miscarriages, animals dying among the villages. Several days later, after the bombs had fallen on this one village, United Nations relief workers with World Food Programme visited the town of Lainya and immediately fell ill with strange symptoms. They were consequently evacuated to Kampala, Uganda, for testing even as they continued to physically suffer.

This, in turn, precipitated the beginning of a United Nations investigation into the use of chemical weapons, as reported this week by those three news organizations, chemical weapons that the chairman of the Armed Services Committee was just noting, that the biggest threat we are facing in the future is weapons of mass destruction. We are seeing here this week, reported in the newspaper, what has taken place in the Sudan, the symptoms of chemical weapons being reported.

We can't at this time jump to conclusions that they were actually used, but the evidence points clearly to the use of chemical weapons by the organization, by the government in Khartoum against its own civilian population in the southern part of that country.

This is also a government in Khartoum that is sponsoring terrorists around the world, where Osama bin Laden stayed and was hosted by them up until 1997 in Khartoum. They are trying to expand in three adjacent countries, saying we want to take our view of how the world should be organized into these countries and we are willing to do it by any means. We are even willing to use any means against our own people, against our own people.

They have killed in their own country 2 million people. They have pushed out and dislocated an additional 4 million people. Last year alone, they forced into starvation 100,000 people by denying our food aid to go where these people were located. They said: You cannot fly your relief planes to feed these poor people. Now they continue to bomb their civilian population, even with, if the evidence this week is proved true, chemical weapons.

I think this is so horrifying. I wanted to draw the attention of the Senate to what has been reported by these three news organizations this week and to call on the nation of Sudan to stop bombing its own civilian population, to refuse to do that, to call upon the U.N. to, with as much speed and haste as possible, conduct a full investigation of what has been reported this week as having happened to the civilian population, and call on U.S. authorities to investigate this as fully as we can to see what actually took place. If true, this is truly horrifying, that weapons of mass destruction such as these chemical weapons would be used against their own civilian population. I think it is just absolutely unconscionable, virtually unbelievable.

This is also a government that continues to allow slavery to be conducted on in its country. There have actually been thousands of people purchased back from their slave masters. As we approach the new millennium, one would think that at least the institution of slavery would be gone from the world. It is not. One would think the use of chemical weapons would be gone from the world today, but it is not.

These things must be investigated to the fullest extent, and if chemical weapons were, indeed, used, the Government of Sudan must be brought in front of the international bodies, the international court of shame, and put in that pariah nation category. They currently, of course, are one of the seven terrorist nations in the entire world that the U.S. Government lists as a terrorist nation. But the possible use of chemical weapons, as reported this week, takes this to an unbelievable level against its own population. That is why, even though this is a late hour, I draw this to the attention of this body.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CARL BIRSACK, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize and bid farewell to my loyal and trusted advisor, Carl Biersack. Carl is leaving my staff to enter into retirement after 27 years of Federal service, including more than 9 years of outstanding service on my staff.

It is difficult to pay adequate tribute to a man who has done so much for me, for my staff, and for the State of Mississippi and the Nation. Those of you who know Carl know that he gives 110 percent of himself every day, inspiring those around him to do the same.

He is the son of a career U.S. Army officer, Carl graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1971. He received his commission as a second lieutenant and served on active duty for over 7 years. So how did I get so lucky, you ask, to add this VMI alumnus to my staff? Yes, VMI is where Sigma Nu was founded, but no, this is not the reason!

Mr. President, in 1988, the U.S. Army made Carl the recipient of the prestigious Pace Award. This award, which was named after a former Secretary of the Army, is given out annually to one

civilian and one member of the military who have demonstrated outstanding service on the Army staff to their nation.

As if receiving the coveted Pace Award was not tribute enough, the award included an opportunity to study at Harvard for a year. Because of family considerations, Carl decided to forgo a move to Boston and instead asked to spend a year as a Capitol Hill fellow. He thought he would learn more useful skills here than at Harvard. He was right. The Army agreed, and he was hired as a fellow in my personal office by my then-Chief of Staff, John Lundy; former Legislative Director Sam Adcock; and Susan Butler, now Chief of Staff for Congressman Chip Pickering.

That's right, Mr. President—I was Carl's second choice. Carl is quick to say he is an accidental staffer. Someone who did not aspire to work on the Hill. I believe this was one of his strengths.

He brought the honor and integrity he learned at VMI, the discipline and dedication of his Army service, and the work ethic of a DOD civil servant to my office.

After his first year, I asked Carl to stay as a permanent member of my staff. Fortunately for me and Mississippi, he did. Now, looking back at his nine years worth of accomplishments, I am amazed. In fact, I had grown so accustomed to his daily presence, when asked, I said Carl worked for me for 13 years. Even people downtown think his tenure was about 15 years. His presence and contributions cast a long shadow.

Carl has covered a broad range of issues during his tenure on the Hill ranging from telecommunications to energy, from environment to fish, from oceans and roads to bridges and aviation. While Carl has never sought the limelight, many of my colleagues recognize his vital role in enacting important legislation. He was a fearless negotiator who frequently found consensus through incremental changes. Often his work was ratified by unanimous consent actions.

During Carl's tenure, he successfully shepherded roughly 25 public laws through the legislative process: Many of these laws moved key industries to competition, such as the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998. Some reformed the way the Government regulates and supports certain industries, such as the ICC Termination Act of 1995, the Maritime Security Act of 1996, and the Amtrak Reform Act of 1997.

Some will shape our Nation's high-tech economy, such as the Y2K Act and the Internet Tax Freedom Act. Others, such as the National Invasive Species Act of 1996, and the Accountable Pipeline Safety and Partnership Act of 1996, protect life, property, and the environment from harm.

Then there were bills, like TEA-21, which were vital to maintaining and improving our Nation's infrastructure. And let me not forget Carl's role in facilitating Congress' basic responsibility: authorizing and appropriating funds for Executive departments and agencies.

Carl was able to accomplish so much as a Senate staff member because of his willingness to work out inclusive solutions to problems. His success can also be attributed to his efforts to remain an anonymous staffer who avoided the spotlight. He concentrated on results, not personal credit.

Staff on both sides of the aisle were comfortable working with him. He admitted his errors, said he didn't know when he was unsure, and was generous with his praise for others. He read the material provided by constituents and advocates, returned phone calls, and was accessible. He was the consummate staffer.

Both Senators and staff knew Carl would deal with their concerns fairly, honestly, and professionally. A deal was a deal. His word was respected. This was true both on the Hill and downtown.

Carl was determined to learn all there was to know about Mississippi. He made trips back to the state to visit our catfish farms, pulp and paper plants, national forests and universities. He saw small towns, courthouse squares, topnotch telecommunications headquarters and military bases. Carl knew that learning about the lives of Mississippians was important to effectively represent the state and its citizens.

Although Carl is from Virginia—often referring to himself as my token non-Mississippian—he was an ardent defender of Mississippi's interests and people. Mississippians have grown to trust and respect Carl's devotion to ensuring that Mississippi's issues and concerns were recognized and often included. His adamant support of my home state's interests has not gone unnoticed by its citizens. Carl was named an honorary citizen of Mississippi and he proudly displayed the certificate.

For years, Carl willingly and voluntarily assumed the role of mentor to new staff members who needed help navigating the complex legislative world. As Legislative Director, he challenged staff to achieve their fullest potential, take risks and learn from their mistakes. There is no doubt that his influence spurred the professional growth made by young, eager staffers, resulting in talented and enthusiastic team players. Carl was always willing to share the lessons he learned the hard way.

There is no overstating how Carl's selflessness has enhanced the professional and personal lives of the generations of staffers who were privileged enough to work with Carl. He lived by